

Administrators Unhappy with Requests

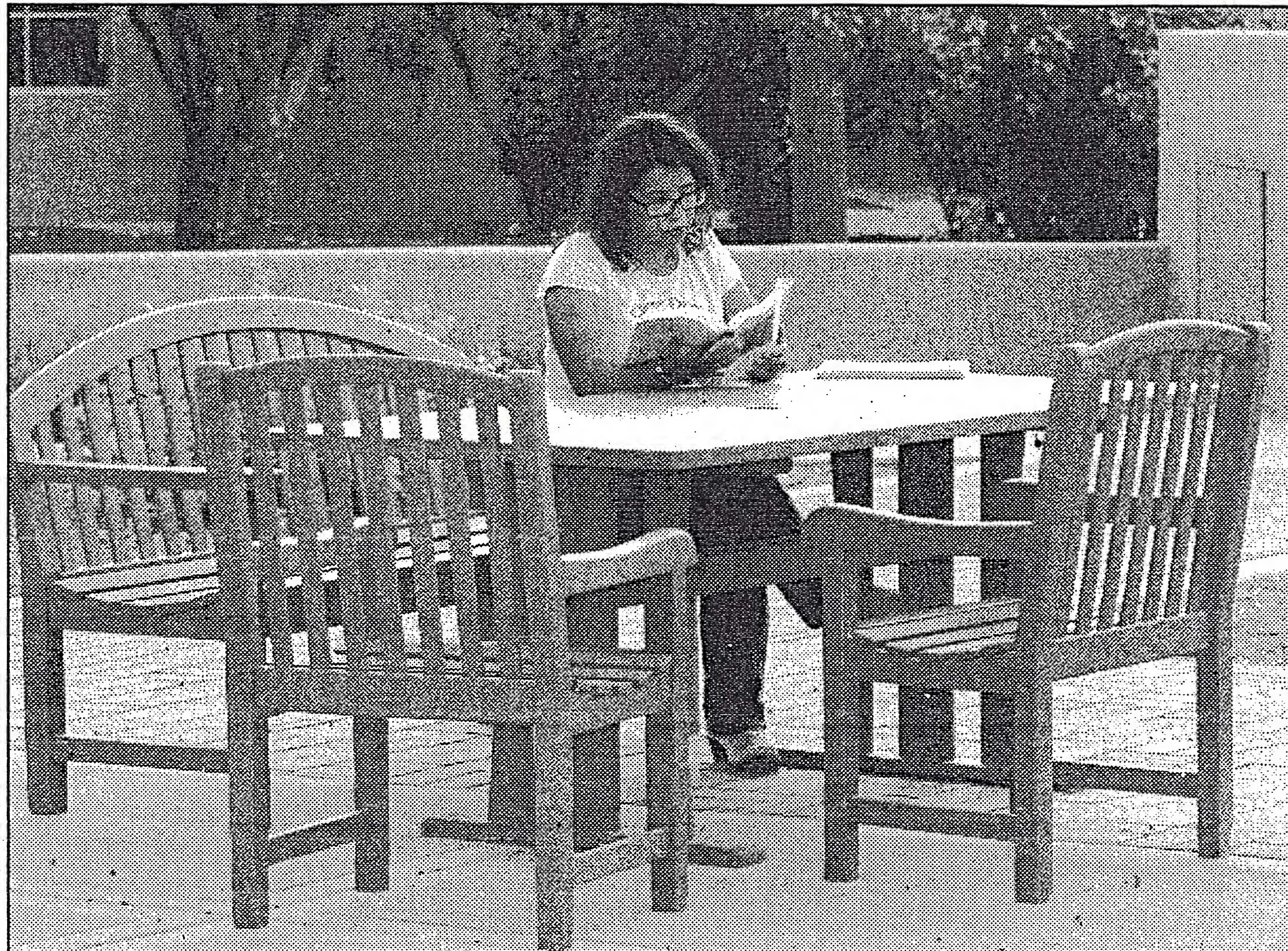
by **Ralph Chapoco**
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Northern New Mexico College administrators claim that in recent months, they have received a high number of requests for access to its public documents — and they're not happy about it.

In a press release dated July 9, Northern Vice President of Institutional Advancement Ricky Serna, claimed the requests varied from employment contracts to investigations Northern has initiated.

Serna said the requests are placing a high burden on the college. He wrote the recent spike of requests prompted the college to seek legal counsel, which is expected to cost more than \$15,000.

Two former Northern faculty members, James Biggs and Annette Rodriguez, are two examples of people who have filed requests under the Inspection of Public Re-



(SUNfoto by Ralph Chapoco)

Annette Rodriguez, a former adjunct instructor for Northern New Mexico College, has filed several requests with Northern to view documents the school has, but has not yet seen many of the documents she requested. Northern is claiming her requests are overly burdensome.

Serna claimed in the press release that requests have already cost the college \$8,000, money that could be used elsewhere.

None of Serna's claims in the press release could be independently verified. Purchase orders for legal fees and salary information have not been released.

He also wrote the requests are having a negative effect on current employees working at Northern.

"Requests for emails and personnel folders are creating fear among staff and faculty, some who have been personally harassed by former employees," Northern President Nancy Barco said in the press release.

Serna also wrote in an email that he refuses to disclose evidence, demonstrating fear among employees regarding requests for their emails and personnel files.

Boe said she has very little sympathy for what the college